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OCTOBER 2007 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Abundant rainfall occurred in the Lake Superior watershed during October 2007. Total precipitation was 2.89 inches above average, marking only the eighth time in the last 21 months that the Lake Superior basin has received above average precipitation. September and October precipitation was a combined 6 inches above average and precipitation over the last 12 months is near average. Lake Superior's monthly mean water level for October was 601.0 feet; 13 inches below average, 3 inches above the record low, 2 inches above last year and 1 inch below chart datum (601.1 ft). Two consecutive months of above average rainfall resulted in an 8 inch rise in water level from Sept 1 to Oct 31. Evaporation during the month of October was near average, as the water temperature was slightly warmer than the air temperature. The October outflow from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River was below average and at the minimum allowed by the current regulation plan. Lake Superior's water level is forecasted to be about 1 foot below its long-term average (LTA), 6 inches above its level of one year ago and below chart datum through April 2008.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's water level is in its period of normal seasonal decline. The October monthly mean water level was 577.0 feet; 23 inches below average and 5 inches below chart datum (577.5 feet). Precipitation during the month was about a half inch above average, but precipitation over the last twelve months is about 2 inches below. Evaporation during October was below average. The outflow from Lake Huron into the St. Clair River was also below average. Lake Michigan-Huron's water level is forecasted to continue its normal seasonal decline through February. The lake will remain about 2 feet below its LTA and below chart datum through April 2007. If the lake experiences very dry conditions, water levels could approach record lows in the February through March timeframe.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair is also in its annual period of seasonal decline and is forecasted to reach its seasonal low in January. Precipitation in the basin was near average in October, while outflow into the Detroit River was below average. The lake was at 573.2 feet in October or twelve inches below its LTA. Looking ahead into 2008, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to remain 9 to 13 inches below its LTA, 9 to 16 inches below last year, but well above its record low.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie's water level has been closer to its LTA, bolstered by very wet conditions in early 2007. Precipitation in October was below average, as was evaporation. To date in 2007 only January, March and August have seen above average precipitation. The October monthly mean water level on Lake Erie was 570.7 feet or 4 inches below average and 6 inches below last year. Outflow from the lake into the Niagara River was below average in October. Forecasted water levels through April on Lake Erie will remain below LTA, below last year's levels but well above its record lows.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario has been in its annual seasonal decline since May. October's monthly mean water level was 244.16 feet or 7 inches below average. Precipitation was near average in October, breaking a string of eight consecutive months with below average precipitation. Precipitation over the last twelve months is close to 8 inches below average. Outflow from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River was below average in October. Forecasted water levels through April 2008 are below average, but very wet weather could bring Lake Ontario back to near average by December.